

The Use of Communication Skills in English Language Teaching in the Classroom Context

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Abstract— *The main objective of this article is to motivate, engage and create interest to learn English among the college students. Also to encourage them to interact and participate in classroom activities. Students do not give importance to English as a subject/language. Hence they are incapable of communicating in English. They are ineffective in communicating in English. The teacher has to adopt different modern techniques in order to make the subject more interesting with new ideas either by audio/video or visual aids.*

Effective communication skills are really very important to teachers in their delivery of lecture in classroom management & interaction with the class in a multi lingual society like India. Teachers, at times, struggle with decisions about the kind of English to use, the standard quality of English, and their proficiency in communication skills.

Keywords— *Classroom, motivate, participate, innovate, techniques, communication skills, interaction, proficiency, audio/ video, visual aids.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Communication means the art or practice of transmitting information. It is a link between teaching and communications. Hence teachers are constantly imparting knowledge and information.

In the present global world most of the communication is done in English as a medium of instruction and we are all aware of the fact that it is a worldwide language. In order to acquire good communication skills; four skills are important. Activities in the language classroom serve many valuable purposes, they give learners support and opportunities to create contexts in which to use language for exchange of real information evidence of their own ability and more importantly confidence.

The four basic language skills; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

1. Listening: is a receptive language skill which learners usually find the most difficult. The listener is required to be

attentive. In listening skill one should be able to understand the message thoroughly. Listening skills can be enhanced by making the student listen to the sounds of the language. Students should inculcate the habit of listening to speeches of renowned personalities.

2. Speaking: is a weapon for communication. When we communicate with others, we express our ideas and listen to others ideas. In colleges, elocution, debate & recitation should be held as regular activity to encourage students speak with confidence. One act plays, songs, role play help also the student speak fluently.

3. Reading: Those wishing to improve their reading skills: Book not only helps to improve/better a new language. There is also a way to discover a way, the culture behind the language by reading. A good dictionary & a pocket notebook.

What is once read and found useful can be noted down. Dual Language books- reading dual language books make the student understand the language not only in his/her mother tongue but also in developing reading skills in English.

4. Writing: Writing provides a learner with physical evidence of his achievements and he can measure his improvement. It helps to consolidate his grasp of vocabulary & structure. It helps to understand the text & write composition. It fosters the ability to summarize, write well and to excel in writing skills with the help of various methods. Importance should be given to composition and creative writing. The learner should be encouraged to write essays, précis's to improve.

The four skills used in language classroom are:

Through daily activities, teachers provide learners with opportunities to develop each skill: students listen (to the teacher use the target language, to a song, to one another in a pair activity), speak (pronunciation practice, greetings, dialogue creation or recitation, songs, substitution drills, oral speed reading, role play), read (instructions, written grammar drills, cards for playing games, flashcards) and write (fill-in-the blank sheets, sentences that describe a

feeling, sight or experience, a dialogue script, a journal entry).

The four skills work in tandem when the activities that require their use are designed to support learners in the process of learning, creating and producing a specific product. Four approaches in particular are structured so that the four skills can be used simultaneously. These approaches are: the focal skill approach, content based instruction, task-based instruction and the project-based approach.

This approach concretizes the integration of not only the four skills but also language, culture, experience and learning strategies (Turnbull, 1999). With the careful selection of a final project that required learners to demonstrate what they have learned through both oral and written production, the teacher plans backwards to identify what they have learned through both oral and written production, the teacher plans backwards to identify what aspects of language, culture, experience and learning strategies are required to complete the end project.

II. ROLE OF A TEACHER

The traditional concept of a teacher is as one who is rich in knowledge. The primary aim of the teacher is to gain knowledge. Slowly there came a change and the system switched over to a different one where the child/student became the target of attention and that system was named Child-centered teaching: a system in which the teacher should focus on the requirements of the student and should create the teaching and learning methodology as per the requirement.

In this developing world many changes are brought about in teaching along with learning strategies. Thus a teacher should become a learner by thinking about the situation by understanding it through different point of view before teaching students & by making them relevant in every situation.

A teacher plays many roles as a learner, facilitator, assessor, evaluator & guide in English Language Teaching (ELT) by performing these roles she/he becomes an ideal guide in shaping their future.

a) As a Learner: Teaching & Learning is a continuous process; many changes are brought in the education system, but the role of the teacher remains the unchanged. The main aim of the teacher should be to convince the student that education is must & to learn English is the need of the hour.

b) As a Facilitator: It is very important for the student to know their teachers concern about them as a teacher. She has to check, support them in their learning process. It is the

duty of a teacher to lay a firm & strong foundation for the students in their growth.

c) As an Assessor & Evaluator: Assessing a student is one of the toughest role of a teacher. She has assessed them in their written & oral work. She has to give assignments on daily bases in order to improve their language .Once she completes her evaluation she has to show their short coming and should try to see that they improve .She should evaluate them on their strengths & weakness.

Responsibilities of a teacher:

1. Be proficient in English communication.
2. Be well versed in the correct use of the language skills.
3. Develop proficiency in the subject knowledge
4. Practice integrated approach in teaching
5. Plan and conduct classes where lot of situations and activities are included for developing language proficiency.
6. Be aware of the different methods and strategies to make the teaching – learning process a pleasant experience for the students and apply them appropriately for effective class-room management.
7. Instill confidence and other moral values through interactions, give tips for their personality development and enable them to come out as confident, successful and useful individuals.
8. Teacher must know how to incorporate the technology to the effective teaching OF English language.
9. Must know the latest development in technology that can be applied to teaching.

III. CONCLUSION

To a great extent the success of a nation depends on its people .One of the reason graduates are not heading MNC's and reputed companies is because they are not proficient in the oral communications in English as many companies now view soft skills as important as hard skills. It is the duty of every English teacher to make the student proficient in all the four skills of communication.

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